

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for using color to indicate a relationship between a controlling device and a plurality of appliances, comprising:

in response to an activation of a device mode key of the controlling device, causing a processor of the controlling device to select from a plurality of colors a first color representative of a first target one of the plurality of appliances to illuminate a first group of function keys comprised of a plurality of function keys wherein each of the plurality of functions keys in the first group of function keys is activatable to cause a transmission of a command to the first target one of the plurality of appliances to control a different operation of the first target one of the plurality of appliance and to concurrently select from the plurality of colors a second color representative of a second target one of the plurality of appliances to illuminate a second group of function keys comprised of a plurality of function keys wherein each of the plurality of functions keys in the second group of function keys is activatable to cause a transmission of a command to the second target one of the plurality of appliances to control a different operation of the second target one of the plurality of appliance.

46. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first group of function keys comprises at least one of a volume control function key group, a channel control function key group, and a transport control function key group.

47. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first group of function keys and the second group of functions keys comprise different ones of a volume control function key group, a channel control function key group, and a transport control function key group.

48. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first group of function keys are illuminated in the first color via at least one LED.

49. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first color and the second color are user selectable via interaction with the controlling device after manufacture of the controlling device.

50. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein the first color and the second color are predefined during manufacture of the controlling device.

51. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 45, wherein a first device mode key of the controlling device used to place the controlling device into a mode for issuing commands primarily to the first target one of the plurality of appliances is caused to be illuminated in the first color.

52. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 51, wherein a second device mode key of the controlling device used to place the controlling device into a mode for issuing commands primarily to the second target one of the plurality of appliances is caused to be illuminated in the second color.

53-55. (Canceled)

56. (New) A method for using color to indicate a relationship between a controlling device and a plurality of appliances, comprising:

in response to an activation of a first device mode key of the controlling device, causing a processor of the controlling device to select from a plurality of colors a first color representative of a first target one of the plurality of appliances to illuminate a group of function keys each having an associated function indicating label wherein each one of the function keys in the group of function keys is activatable to cause a transmission of a command to control an operation of the first target one of the plurality of appliance wherein the operation controlled in the first target one of the plurality of appliances is consistent with the function indicating label associated with the one of the function keys of the group of function keys activated; and

in response to an activation of a second device mode key of the controlling device subsequent to the activation of the first device mode key, causing the processor of the controlling device to select from the plurality of colors a second color representative of a second target one of the plurality of appliances to illuminate the group of function keys wherein each one of the function keys in the group of function keys is activatable to cause a transmission of a command to control an operation of the second target one of the plurality of appliance wherein the operation controlled in the second target one of the plurality of appliances remains consistent with the function indicating label associated with the one of the function keys of the group of function keys activated;

wherein the first color representative of the first target one of the plurality of appliances is different than the second color representative of the second target one of the plurality of appliances and wherein the function indicating labels associated with each of the

function keys in the group of function keys remain unchanged in response to the activation of the second device mode key of the controlling device subsequent to the activation of the first device mode key.

57. (New) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the group of function keys comprises at least one of a volume control function key group, a channel control function key group, and a transport control function key group.

58. (New) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the first group of function keys are illuminated in the first color via at least one LED.

59. (New) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the first color and the second color are user selectable via interaction with the controlling device after manufacture of the controlling device.

60. (New) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the first color and the second color are predefined during manufacture of the controlling device.

61. (New) The method as recited in claim 56, wherein the first device mode key of the controlling device is caused to be illuminated in the first color.

62. (New) The method as recited in claim 62, wherein the second device mode key of the controlling device is caused to be illuminated in the second color.